

Date: Wed, 7 Jul 93 04:30:02 PDT
From: Packet-Radio Mailing List and Newsgroup <packet-radio@ucsd.edu>
Errors-To: Packet-Radio-Errors@UCSD.Edu
Reply-To: Packet-Radio@UCSD.Edu
Precedence: Bulk
Subject: Packet-Radio Digest V93 #198
To: packet-radio

Packet-Radio Digest Wed, 7 Jul 93 Volume 93 : Issue 198

Today's Topics:

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                add
                Delete
            Is it broadcasting?
MiniSport Hacker - Vol 1 reissue
MiniSport Hacker - Vol 4
RTTY DECODING

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Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Packet-Radio@UCSD.Edu>
Send subscription requests to: <Packet-Radio-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Packet-Radio Digest are available (by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/packet-radio".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

Date: 7 Jul 93 07:51:16 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu
Subject: add
To: packet-radio@ucsd.edu

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add asqp-nop-05
```

Date: 7 Jul 93 07:50:41 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu
Subject: Delete
To: packet-radio@ucsd.edu

unsubscribe

Date: Wed, 7 Jul 1993 08:27:25 GMT
From: usc!wupost!csus.edu!netcom.com!topolski@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: Is it broadcasting?
To: packet-radio@ucsd.edu

I find myself making a case for something I consider to be bad form, but not illegal:

Alan Bloom (alanb@sr.hp.com) wrote:
: Seems very clear to me it's illegal:

: 97.3 (a)
: (10) Broadcasting.
: Transmissions intended for reception by the general public, either
: direct or relayed.

The fact that a packet is unconnected does not make it intended for reception by the general public.

Just as a repeater controller giving the time and temperature is not broadcasting.

: (23) Information bulletin.
: A message directed only to amateur operators consisting solely of
: subject matter of direct interest to the amateur service.

This has nothing to do with it.

: 97.111 (b)
: In addition to one-way transmissions specifically authorized elsewhere
: in this Part, an amateur station may transmit the following types of
: one-way communications:
: ..
: (6) Transmissions necessary to disseminate information bulletins.

Either does this.

: 97.113 (c)
: No station shall transmit communications in order to engage in any form
: of broadcasting, ...

let me finish: "...nor to engage in any activity related to program production or newsgathering for broadcasting purposes. A station may, however, transmit communication to convey news information about an event for dissemination to the public when the following conditions are present:

- (1) The information involves the immediate safety of live of individuals or the immediate protection of property;
- (2) The information is directly related to the event;
- (3) The information cannot be transmitted by any other means because normal communications systems have been disrupted or because there are no communications systems available at the place where the information is originated; and
- (4) Other means of communication could not be reasonably provided before or at the time of the event."

Clearly the intent of 97.113(c) is to prohibit an Amateur Radio station from replacing or enhancing public broadcasting facilities -- except in unusual emergencies. A packet bulletin or unconnected "unproto" frame simply does not do this, as it is not intended for reception to the general public [thus not fitting the definition of broadcasting].

Now, let me say this. Amateurs have held a common kinship and bond that is strained by matters of religion or politics. Abortion is both a religious and political issue, both sides feel morally justified in their position and consider the opposing view to be reprehensible. While no government can legislate rules banning such topics, amateurs usually police themselves from creating discussions around issues that foster ill will.

I feel that this is the best approach to solving this problem. Explain to the offending ham about an amateur's responsibility to foster goodwill [see 97.1(e)], and how such issues -- albeit deserving issues -- simply fail to work toward that end.

--

-----=====NEW ADDRESS=====-----
Robb Topolski, topolski@orange.digex.net || Packet: kj6yt@n0ary.#nocal.ca
-----=====-----

Date: 6 Jul 93 23:34:07 GMT
From: usc!howland.reston.ans.net!spool.mu.edu!olivea!isc-br!tau-ceti!comtch!opus-ovh!bmork@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: MiniSport Hacker - Vol 1 reissue
To: packet-radio@ucsd.edu

MiniSport Laptop Hacker - Vol 1

As some of you may know, Zenith has gotten out of the business of selling personal computers. I had the good fortune to purchase some of their extremely small MiniSport laptop computers. They are absolutely perfect for packet use and in any RACES or ARES setup, they could provide other func-

tions as backups due to their universal hardware platform. I thought others might be interested in information I've collected in case you're using one or interested in buying one.

If *you* have information, please pass it on to me. I'll bundle it up and send out a MiniSport Laptop Hacker Part 2!

These computers are basically an IBM/PC platform with 1 or 2 Mbytes of RAM, MSDOS 3.3 in ROM, a 2" floppy, and a 25x80 column LCD screen. RAM above 640k can be used for EMS or battery backed RamDrive. They have connections for an external CGA monitor, an external floppy, serial port(s), and a parallel port. Primary connection to other computers is via a 3-wire or 7-wire (faster baud rates) null-modem cable. FastWireLink program is included in ROM with MSDOS, logically on drive C:

The 2" disks are hard to locate, but I finally found a source for them, albeit an expensive and un-friendly one: Rex Television Service Co., phone 708-448-5558.

I had a power supply problem with one. I unscrewed the case and innards of the offending unit and learned a lot. The interior is modular and easy to work on: Power supply, Main CPU board, Keyboard, Disk Drive, and LCD display. Multiconductor ribbons connect the parts. If you open yours up and slide the main PC board out, be carefull of the POWER SWITCH and the disk drive EJECT BUTTON. Both get caught easy on the case and might snap something. The only tricky part is that one of the drive mounting screws needs to be unscrewed before you can release a thin piece of copper ("Mu metal") colored grounding strap wrapped up and around the main PC board from below.

Like I said, I had a power supply problem with one. To the best of my knowledge, it's an intermittent cable contact. Each time it fails, unconnecting & reconnecting the one PS cable fixes the problem. It's a 15 min operation and is not complicated. I'm thinking of swapping power supplies around. I have the pinout of the PS connection to the main board, if you're interested. You could test the PS by only taking off the bottom computer panel and measuring voltages from the "underside" of the circuit board.

The unit is powered by a removable battery that reminds me of a cam-corder battery. It's advertised to be 6v. I suspect it's five NiCd cells (5x1.2 => 6.0). The computers power supply/ charging receptacle is on the battery pack and feeds connections further into the computer. I've tapped into the wierd shaped connector with paper clips. Alternately one could bypassed the battery entirely by clipping alligator clips onto the sliding contacts on the computer. The batteries will charge with a 6volt supply, but the computer runs from 9volts DC if it's not using batteries.

As I hinted above, a second serial port is available. It's logically

there, but terminates mechanically in a Scotch-Flex type socket. It's meant to accept a modem module. I'm currently trying to determine a pinout for this connector. If you have the information already, perhaps you could pass it on to me.

The external floppy drive connector has been as difficult to find as the 2" floppy disks. It is a square outer connector, with a female D-shaped receptacle. The D-shaped receptacle has 20 pins. It's just under 3/16" tall and just under 5/8" wide (at the wider side of the D). If you have any PINOUT OR ACQUISITION INFORMATION for this type of connector, please send me a message and I'll include the information in round 2 of the MiniSport Laptop Hacker.

73, Brian, ka9snf @wb7nnf.#spokn.wa.usa

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 USMail 6006-B Eaker, Fairchild, WA 99011

Date: 7 Jul 93 00:30:18 GMT
From: olivea!isc-br!tau-ceti!comtch!opus-ovh!bmork@uunet.uu.net
Subject: MiniSport Hacker - Vol 4
To: packet-radio@ucsd.edu

MiniSport Laptop Hacker - Vol 4

28 Nov 92

A few more folks checked in since the last issue. It was good to hear from KI6PL, N8OWM, N8PJP, KU8H. These volumes come out pretty spuratically. That's why they're labelled Volumes rather than Parts. Each is put out on the network as I have info to fill it. Be sure to send me *your* information! The rumor mill suggests a large pool of these machines is becoming available in the Michigan area at reasonable prices. That should provide a much bigger pool of users to swap information. Good!

One of the best purchases I've made recently is a CD-ROM. I survive with one Ham radio related disk and one shareware distribution disk. Any of the programs I refer to are likely sourced by these two CD-ROMs. I would love to share them with you, and it's encouraged by the program authors. Make it painless for me (disk SASE, clear request, etc) and I'll make copies for you. If you're a "want it now" type of person, we can do a phone data transfer.

>>> FLOPPY DISK SOURCE The strange 2" floppy disks problem seems to be a perennial concern. Here's all the non-rumor info I have. Rex Television Service Co (7030 W. 111th Street, Worth, IL 60482-1827) sells a 10cnt box

for \$45.00, but then tacks on another \$10 for freight. They also tried to get me for sales tax, but refunded it later. Phone 708-448-5558. The box I have indicates a lifetime warantee from FUJI, with the following Point of Contact: Fuji Photo Film USA, Inc., 555 Taxter Rd, Elmsford, NY 10523.

>>> FILE TRANSFERS I found COMMO and DSZ will work together on the MiniS-port for what I need in less space than PROCOMM takes. This allows packet (or modem comm) with ZMODEM, YMODEM, and XMODEM protocols. I tried using DSZ with a hardwire between computers, using a null modem cable (FWL, which is on your disk C:, is faster. Don't ask why I do these things!). DSZ did not like the 3-wire null cable I described in MLH Vol3 that works with FWL. It needed to "hear" the CD (Carrier Detect) on the serial port. Trying to stay as globally portable as possible, here's a full blown null modem cable that lets you plug into almost any IBM/PC/XT/AT/'286/'386/'486/? that you may come across.

{9fem}-----4' 7cond cable-----({9fem}----- 5" 7cond cable----{25male})

0 (0 1) DB-25 Frame Ground is not used
1-6 (1-6 8-6) Each feeds it's received DSR into CD, also
2-(3-2) Data to loner
3-(2-3) Data from loner
4-(6-6) DTR from loner goes to others' DSR
5-(5-7) Signal Ground
6-(4-20) DSR to loner from others' DTR
7-(8-5) RTS from loner to others' CTS
8-(7-4) CTS to loner from others' RTS
9 (9 22) Ring Indicator not used

The numbers to the left are pin numbers. Wires are represented by "-". In the text description, "loner" refers to the computer at the lone connector end.

DSZ supports much more widely-known protocols. For that reason, it has been important for me to get running. It's still in an evaluation stage at this QTH. If you have any experience with this program, I'd be interested. But be assured that Zenith did you well by providing FWL. It is an order of magnitude faster for local hard-line transfers. I've not tested FWL over the phone line.

SWAPPING THE SECOND MEGABYTE

I had two MiniSports. The 2M one had a power supply problem. It would work work for a week or so and then no longer power up. Each time, I took it apart, wiggled all the connectors, put it back together and it worked. The fourth time around I decided "enough!"

I unsoldered the single-inline-pins of the add-in memory package (8 bits by 1 Mbyte). I resoldered into the same position in a second machine that was working reliably as a 1M system. The memory package's pins are not actual-

ly the pins of the ICs, so I wasn't too worried about heat damage. I used an alligator clip between the soldering iron and the computer ground. No jumpers, solder traces, etc needed to be modified. I reran the SETUP option (hold ESC on power up), specified new memory sizes in both, and, voila!, they both have worked fine now. I'm still waiting for the old 2M to fail again.

If you have any supply information on 1Mbyte x 8bit SIP (or SIMMs, I'll add the pins), please let me know! I'm confident that I and other hams can successfully double the memory in a 1Mbyte version of the MiniSport.

Next time, DISASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS, POWER SUPPLY PINOUT, MINIMUM BOOT FILES, and discussion of BOARD REVISIONS.

73, Brian, ka9snf@wb7nnf, #spokn.wa.usa or Internet ka9snf@jupiter.spk.wa.us

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Date: Mon, 05 Jul 1993 19:33:34 +1000
From: munnari.oz.au!jabaru.cec.edu.au!csource!gateway@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: RTTY DECODING
To: packet-radio@ucsd.edu

I AM USING MFJ1278B WITH IBM 486SX, AND HAVING PROBLEMS DECODING
COMMERCIAL RTTY..ANY CLUES PLEASE?

* Origin: Spectrum Radio - Melbourne's All Band Radio BBS (3:632/393.0)

End of Packet-Radio Digest V93 #198
